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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-4, 7 and 14 and add new claim 15 as indicated in the following Listing of Claims.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1 1. (Currently amended) A water filter cartridge,
2 especially for treating drinking water ~~in beverage machines or~~
3 ~~drinking water devices,~~ with a replaceable control unit to
4 monitor the condition of the water filter cartridge wherein the
5 improvement comprises a replaceable control unit having a sensor
6 unit (11) with at least one penetrating conductance sensor (13,
7 ~~14~~) that penetrates through a filter cartridge wall without
8 contacting a filter granulate or a filter medium.

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1 2. (Currently amended) The water filter cartridge
2 according to Claim 1 wherein the at least one penetrating
3 conductance sensor (13) measures conductivity of filtered water.

1 3. (Currently amended) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 or 2 wherein said at least one penetrating
3 conductance sensor (13) ~~projects~~ penetrates into the housing (2)
4 ~~of~~ through the filter cartridge ~~(1)~~ wall by puncturing through
5 the top wall of the filter cartridge.

1 4. (Currently amended) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 further comprising at least one passage or

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3 at least one break point for receiving said at least one
4 penetrating conductance sensor (13).

1 5. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 further comprising a second conductance
3 sensor (14) for measuring the quality of unfiltered water.

1 6. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 or 5 further comprising an electronic
3 evaluation unit (19).

1 7. (Currently amended) The water filter cartridge

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2 according to ~~one~~ claim 1 or 5 further comprising an electronic
3 evaluation unit (19) for taking into account the difference
4 between at least two conductance values in performing an
5 evaluation.

1 8. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 or 5 further comprising a temperature sensor
3 (15).

1 9. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 or 5 further comprising an evaluation unit
3 and a timing element in said evaluation unit.

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1 10. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 or 5 further comprising a display (16) for
3 displaying the condition of the water filter cartridge (1).

1 11. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 further comprising fastening elements (12)
3 to fasten the sensor unit (11) to the filter cartridge (1).

1 12. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 11 wherein at least some of the fastening
3 elements are catches (12).

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1 13. (Previously presented) The water filter cartridge
2 according to claim 1 further comprising a beverage machine or
3 drinking water device.

1 14. (Currently amended) A filter cartridge device for
2 treating drinking water ~~in beverage machines or drinking water~~
3 ~~devices~~ having a ~~housing and a~~ replaceable control unit to
4 monitor the condition of the water filter cartridge wherein the
5 improvement comprises a replaceable control unit having a sensor
6 unit (11) with at least one conductance sensor (13, 14) having at
7 least one needle-shaped electrode for passing through a wall of a
8 filter cartridge without contacting a filter medium and a filter
9 cartridge having a corresponding break point or an area with an
10 elastic sealing material for said at least one needle-shaped
11 electrode and fastening elements (12) being provided to attach
12 the sensor unit (11) to ~~the housing of~~ the filter cartridge (1).

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1 15. (New) A water filtration apparatus for drinking water
2 comprising:
3 (a) a replaceable filter cartridge having a filter
4 medium and a break point or an elastic sealing material in a wall
5 of said replaceable filter cartridge;
6 (b) a replaceable control unit having at least one
7 needle-shaped conductance sensor for measuring a quality of
8 filtered water and for puncturing through said wall of said
9 replaceable filter cartridge at said break point or at said
10 elastic sealing material without contacting said filter medium,
11 said replaceable control unit having at least one other
12 conductance sensor for measuring a quality of unfiltered water;
13 and
14 (c) an electronic evaluation unit in said replaceable
15 control unit for comparing said quality of filtered water with
16 said quality of unfiltered water and determining when said
17 replaceable control unit has been attached to a new replaceable
18 filter cartridge.